

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5896

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT PINS KS

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF REV. KIM KWAN-SOK ENDS

REF: SEOUL 5683

1. TRIAL OF REV. KIM KWAN-SOK, GEN. SEC. NCCC-K AND FOUR CO-DEFENDENTS ENDED AUGUST 2. PROSECUTOR DEMANDED PRISON SENTENCES OF 3 YEARS FOR REV. KIM, 4 YEARS FOR REV. CHO AND FIVE YEARS FOR PASTORS PAK AND KWON ON GROUNDS IT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT KIM AND OTHERS HAD EMBEZZLED 4 MILLION WON FROM EVANGELICAL FUND PROVIDED BY GERMAN BREAD FOR WORLD FOUNDATION WHICH WAS USED TO HELP CHURCH WORKERS ARRESTED IN MAY 1974 UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES. FIVE DEFENSE LAWYERS ARGUED STRONGLY THAT PROSECUTOR HAD NOT MADE CASE AND DEFENDENTS SHOULD BE RELEASED. JUDGE WILL PASS SENTENCE AUGUST 16.

2. NCCC-K LEADERS SOMEWHAT SHAKEN BY SEVERITY OF PRISON SENTENCES DEMANDED BY PROSECUTOR, BUT ARE CONFIDENT THAT JUDGE WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THEM. OPTIMISM CONTINUES THAT KIM AT LEAST WILL BE RELEASED.

3. NCCC-K SECRETARY YI KYONG-PAE TOLD HUMAN RIGHTS
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OFFICER THAT RELEASE OF KIM AND IMPRISONMENT OF OTHERS

WILL POSE DILEMMA FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. HE SAID MEMBERS PONDERING WHAT ACTION THEY SHOULD TAKE IF THIS HAPPENS, BUT FIND THAT MANY OPTIONS NOT VIABLE IN VIEW TIGHT GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE OF NCCC-K AND CONTROL OF MEDIA. YI SAID BECAUSE OF EMERGENCY MEASURE 9 THEY MUST BE VERY CAUTIOUS. DURING YI'S CONVERSATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER, ME DESCRIBED BY YI AS KCIA AGENT LOOKED THROUGH DOOR OF NCCC-K OFFICE. ACCORDING TO YI THERE HAVE BEEN AS MANY AS 10 KCIA MEN ASSIGNED TO THE CHRISTIAN BUILDING, HEADQUARTERS OF THE NCCC-K AND OTHER CHURCH GROUPS. AS ADDED SAMPLE OF KCIA THOROUGHNESS, YI CITED CASE OF JAPANESE LAWYER NOKADAIRA WHO ARRIVED SEOUL AUGUST 2 TO ATTEND TRIAL OF REV. KIM, BUT MISSED SESSION BECAUSE HE WAS DETAINED FOR FOUR HOURS AT AIRPORT BY KCIA WHILE DOCUMENTS IN HIS POSSESSION WERE INSPECTED PAGE BY PAGE. DOCUMENTS WERE THEN CONFISCATED. NOKADAIRA, WHO YI DESCRIBED AS MAJOR LEADER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA MOVEMENT IN JAPAN, HAD ATTENDED EARLIER TRIAL SESSIONS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF BREAD FOR PEACE FOUNDATION AND WAS KNOWN TO KCIA. AMONG NOKADAIRA DOCUMENTS CONFISCATED BY POLICE WAS PETITION SIGNED BY JAPANESE JURISTS CALLING FOR RELEASE OF REV. KIM AND LAWYER HAN AND SOME OF WRITINGS OF POET KIM CHI-HA. ACCORDING YI, JAPANESE EMBASSY WILL TRY TO GET DOCUMENTS RETURNED TO NOKADAIRA.

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